

REMARKS

Claims 1-27 are pending. Claims 1-3 are amended.

Claims 1, 2, 4-16 and 23-27 were rejected under 35 USC §112, second paragraph, as being indefinite. The Examiner notes a lack of antecedent basis for inner and outer circumferences, and questions what is considered to be that “which penetrates.” The claims has been amended to address these issues. It is respectfully submitted that the amended claims are in full compliance with 35 USC §112.

Claims 1, 2, 5, 6, 10, 15, 16, 23, 24 and 26 were rejected under 35 USC §103(a) as being unpatentable over Burchard et al. in view of Bovaird et al. In this rejection, the Examiner acknowledges the Burchard et al. does not disclose the limitation added to claim 1 requiring a flow path and one of two configurations as provided in the last 4 lines of the claim. Borvaird et al. is applied by the Examiner for allegedly rendering the flow path obvious. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Even if the references are combined as suggested by the Examiner, the combination does not result in the claimed invention.

More specifically, the last 4 lines of claim 1 require: (1) when said water purification flow path penetrates from the outer circumference to the inner circumference of the water quality purification cartridge, the raw water flow path flows at the outer circumference; and (2) when said water purification flow path penetrates from the inner circumference to the outer

circumference, the raw water flow path flows at the inner circumference of the water quality purification cartridge.

Burchard et al. teaches that the water purification flow path penetrates from the outer circumference to the inner circumference. However, contrary to the requirements of claim 1, item 1 above, the raw water flow path of Burchard et al. flows at the inner circumference of the water cartridge. Burchard et al. does not teach a water purification flow path penetrating from the inner circumference to the outer circumference.

The Examiner notes that Bovaird et al. teaches water penetrating the filter material of the filter cartridge from an outer circumference to an inner circumference while raw water flows along the outer circumference. It is noted that the Examiner considers the flow of raw water prior to passing through the filter material at the outer circumference as corresponding to a raw water flow path as in claim 1. That is, the Examiner is broadly interpreting the raw water flow of Bovaird et al. prior to passing through the filter material as corresponding to a raw water flow path. Therefore, in order to more clearly distinguish over this interpretation, the claims have been amended to clarify that the raw water flow path of the present invention flows at the outer circumference of the water quality purification cartridge to the delivery flow path without penetrating said water quality purification cartridge.

The presently claimed invention provides a showerhead having two flow paths, namely a raw water flow path and a water purification flow path. The raw water flow path and the water purification flow path are formed by a cartridge housed in the cylinder portion of the holding

part. The flow path on the upstream side of the water quality purification cartridge becomes a common flow path along the upstream side surface of the water quality purification cartridge because the flow path on the upstream side of the water quality purification cartridge is formed as common flow path along the upstream side surface of the water quality purification cartridge (page 3, lines 18-20; Figs 5-7; page 4, lines 8-9; Fig. 25).

By the above construction, in the cases of both the discharge of raw water and the discharge of purified water, since the raw water passes through the common flow path along the upstream side surface of the water quality purification cartridge, the raw water flushes solid substances that may cause clogging on the surface of the water quality purification material (i.e. the water quality purification cartridge), accumulated at the time of discharging the purified water. Then, the solid substances are discharged, and as a result, the high-level purification capability is maintained, and the life is extended (page 3, lines 20-23; page 4, lines 9-13; and page 26, lines 2-7).

Claims 4 and 7 were also rejected under 35 USC §103(a) as being unpatentable over Burchard et al. (presumably in combination with Bovaird et al.) and further in view of Corder; claim 8 was rejected under 35 USC §103(a) as being unpatentable over Burchard et al. (presumably in combination with Bovaird et al.) and in further view of Corder and Magnenat et al.; claim 9 was rejected under 35 USC §103(a) as being unpatentable over Burchard et al. (presumably in combination with Bovaird et al.) in further view of Nguyen et al.; claims 11 and 12 were rejected under 35 USC §103(a) as being unpatentable over Burchard et al. (presumably

Amendment
Serial No. 10/019,297
Attorney Docket No. 011700

in combination with Bovaird et al.) and in further view of Magnenat et al.; claims 13 and 14 were rejected under 35 USC §103(a) as being unpatentable over Burchard et al. (presumably in combination with Bovaird et al.) and in further view of Gonzalez; and claims 25 and 27 were rejected under 35 USC §103(a) as being unpatentable over Burchard et al. (presumably in combination with Bovaird et al.) and in further view of Barnard. Favorable reconsideration of these rejections is earnestly solicited.

The combination of the primary references to Bovaird et al. and Burchard et al. would not result in providing a water purification flow path penetrating from the outer circumference to the inner circumference of the water quality purification cartridge wherein the raw water flow path flows at the outer circumference of the water quality purification cartridge to the delivery flow path without penetrating said water purification cartridge. The secondary references fail to provide the teachings which the primary references lack.

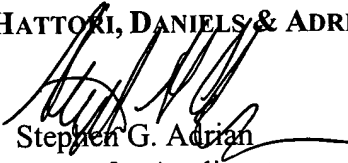
For at least the foregoing reasons, the claimed invention distinguishes over the cited art and defines patentable subject matter. Favorable reconsideration is earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner deem that any further action by applicants would be desirable to place the application in condition for allowance, the Examiner is encouraged to telephone applicants' undersigned attorney.

Amendment
Serial No. 10/019,297
Attorney Docket No. 011700

If this paper is not timely filed, Applicants respectfully petition for an appropriate extension of time. The fees for such an extension or any other fees that may be due with respect to this paper may be charged to Deposit Account No. 50-2866.

Respectfully submitted,
WESTERMAN, HATTORI, DANIELS & ADRIAN, LLP



Stephen G. Adrian
Attorney for Applicants
Registration No. 32,878
Telephone: (202) 822-1100
Facsimile: (202) 822-1111

SGA/arf